

Miscellanies,

WRITTEN

By JONATHAN SWIFT, D. D.
Dean of St. PATRICK's, Dublin. K

VIZ.

- I. The ART of PUNNING.
- II. The RIGHT of PRECEDENCE.
- III. ADVICE to a Young POET.
- IV. The SWEARER's Bank.
- V. A DEFENCE of *English-Commodities*.
- VI. An Imitation of HORACE.
- VII. Letters, Poems, Tales, &c.

The Fourth Edition.

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Miscellanies

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By JONATHAN SWIFT, D.D.
Dean of St. Patrick's Dublin

1712

The Art of Writing

1. The Right of Succession

2. The Right of Property



3. The Right of Liberty

4. The Right of Justice

5. The Right of Peace

6. The Right of Honour

The End of the World

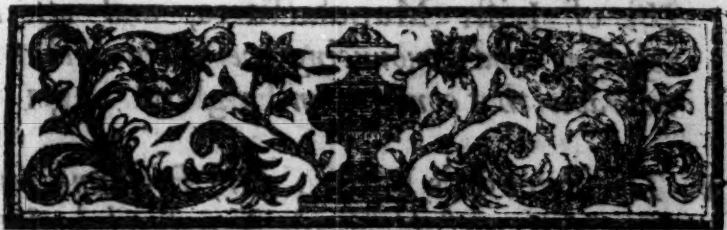
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1712


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IV. A Defence of English Commodities
Being an Answer to the Proposal for the



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3 AU 59

Hobbes's Ecclesiastical History.

THE

The BENEFIT of
FARTING
EXPLAIN'D:

OR, THE
FUNDAMENT-ALL Cause
OF THE

Distempers incident to the *FAIR-SEX*,
Enquired Into.

Proving à *Posteriori* most of the Dis-ordures
In-tail'd upon them, are owing to *Flatu-*
lencies not seasonably vented.

Wrote in *Spanish* By Don *Fartinando Puff-inderst*
Professor of *Bumbast* in the University of *Crackow*.

A N D

Translated into *English* at the Request, and for the Use,
of the Lady *Damp-fart* of *Her-fart-shire*.

By *Obadiab Fizzle*, Groom of the Stool to the Princess of
Arsimini in *Sardinia*.

*A Fart, tho' wholesome, does not fail,
If barr'd of Passage by the Tail,
To fly back to the Head again,
And, by its Fumes, disturb the Brain:
Thus Gunpowder confin'd, you know, Sir,
Grows stronger, as 'tis ram'd the closer;
But if in open Air it fires,
In harmless Smoke its Force expires.*

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POSTSCRIPT.

BY WAY OF

PRE-FACE.

Venti indignantes magno cum murmure
(ventris,
Circum claustra fremunt, media sedet Æholus
(Arce.
Virgil Æneid lib. 1.

LIBERTY and PRO-
PERTY, are the two
great Blessings, every Bri-
tish Subject claims, as his
Birth-right; why Mr.
Breech shou'd be deny'd this Benefit,
I see no Reason; but his shame-faced-
ness to appear in his own behalf.
Tis true he always sat in the
A 2 House

P O S T S C R I P T, by

House of Commons, being at all Elections unanimously chose, as Representative for the Burrough of Rumpfort, but thro' modesty was ever observ'd to keep behind Backs; he never open'd his Mouth in the House, but all the Members round nos'd him, and took Snuff at every thing he offer'd, because it was said, that in his younger days, he had been a Button-Maker (tho' falsly) for I remember him from his Youth, to have been a Wind-Merchant, which he vented by Hole-Sale and Re-Tail. This Usage put him under a constraint of being Silent, tho' he often grumbled inwardly for it. He had two Sons, Sir Reverence being the Younger, was Knighted by King James, the other, was a Noisy, Rattling, Cracking Fellow, he apply'd himself to the practice of Music and Physic, and was particularly famous for the cure of the Wind Cholick, but none ever relish'd his Musical performance. He Married into the Family of the Swifts, and was so active in Running, that

non

Way of PREFACE.

none cou'd ever catch him if he once got the Start: Beside these two, there was another Foisted on him, but believing him to be illegitimate, he was asham'd to own him, he dy'd Young, and therefore made no Noise in the World. This Mr. Breech, the Father of these, was a Man of a good Report, tho' some are so malicious as to say, he us'd to Play at FAST and LOOSE, he was sometimes Sickly, which was imputed to his being formerly bit by a Tarantula, because he was always observ'd to be reliev'd by the playing of a Bag-Pipe. The Hole History of his Life and Actions, has been lately publish'd by a Learned and Reverend Doctor*, wherein he makes him the Eighth Wonder of the World, and by way of Excellency over the other Seven, has stil'd him the most Wonderful of them all, and tho' he endeavour'd to conceal him, under the dark veil of an Enigma, yet we quickly Smelt out his

A 3

Hole

* See, The Wonderful Wonder of Wonders.

POSTSCRIPT, &c.

Hole meaning. Tom Punsibi who first taught him his Ars in Presenti, was often very Smart upon him with his Puns*, and he cou'd Digest every thing but that, Tom never look'd him in the Face but he made him tremble; they never met but Blows ensued, but Tom was always sure to come off Conqueror, but notwithstanding, Tom made a Convert of him, and Instilled into him the Principles of Passive Obedience. Now the design of the following Essay, is to obtain Liberty for him to vent his Scenti-ments freely, and that he may be Heard without Offence, and be no longer Bound to keep Silence, since such a Freedom will prove so serviceable to the Fair Sex: If I have HANDLED THE SUBJECT to their good liking, I hope they'll loudly Crack of the Benefit receiv'd, and that I shall judge a sufficient reward for all my trouble, who am, AU 59

Their most Humble Servant
Fartinando Puff-indorst.

* See, The Art of Punning.

THE
Benefit of *FARTING*
EXPLAIN'D.

*Si fartus Venter crepitu luctante laborat,
Ars te Sanabit, vento spiracula dando.
Flatum ne retine; propellito fortiter hostem,
Rumbulus, et Ructus, crepitus strepitusq; Juvabunt.*

English'd thus, for the Benefit of
the Ladies.

*If you're Oppress'd by rumbling Wind,
Strain hard, to squeeze it out behind,
From Puffs, and crackling Farts, relief you'll find,*



T has been observ'd of late
Years since the primitive
wholesome Custom of *Toast*
and *Nutmeg* in a Morn-
ing, has been superseded by
that pernicious Practice of *Tea* and
A 4 *Coffee,*

2 *The Benefit of FARTING*

Coffee, that a numberless train of Distempers, scarce known to our Forefathers, as Spleen, Vapours, Hips, &c. have become as universal among us as the Small Pox; the weight of which, has fallen chiefly on the Fair-Sex, for Reasons I shall give hereafter. I wou'd not, on any Score be thought Guilty of a design, to run down those pleasant Liquors, or derogate the least tittle from their due Praise, since I should thereby cause the Ladies to level the *Hole Artillery* of their re-scentment against me; but must say this in their favour, that in the first place, they serve as an Amusement, to divert two or three Hours, that would otherwise lye very heavy on their hands in a Morning; and Secondly, to purge off that sharp corroding Humour call'd Scandal, which else (if too long retain'd) might ulcerate their Memory; and Thirdly, it promotes a free Circulation of Intelligence, which, they'd have no other opportunity of coming at, being debarr'd the Benefit
of

of going to Coffee-Houses or the Exchange. But, as the greatest Blessings, are sometimes attended with some Inconveniency; Wine that makes our Heart glad, can also rob us of our Reason; so these most wholesome, and pleasing Liquors, may, if not us'd with Caution, produce ill Consequences, the prevention of which, for the benefit of that Sex, is the design of this Essay. As in sipping up these Liquors hot, there is commonly as much Wind as Water suck'd in, which thro' Modesty being debarr'd a Passage downwardly, when Nature offers, recoils up into the Bowels, Stomach and Head, and there occasions all those dreadful Symptoms usually ascrib'd to the Vapours, all which one Seasonable Fart might have prevented. It has likewise been assign'd as the first Cause of Quakerism, and Enthusiasm, as *Hudibras* observes.

4 *The Benefit of FARTING*

*'As Wind in Hypochondria pent,
Is but a Fart if downward sent;
But if suppress'd, it upward flies,
And vents it self in Prophecies,*

I shall therefore in the first place,
enquire into the Nature and *Essence* of
a FART.

Secondly, Shew the ill Consequences
of suppressing it.

Tbirdly, Prove the lawfulness of
it. And,

Fourthly and Lastly, Shew the many
Advantages that will attend an Act
of Toleration, or free Liberty that
way.

First, It is a Question greatly con-
troverted among the Learned, whe-
ther a *Fart* be a Spiritual or Material
Substance; the Professors of Metaphy-
sicks

ficks have argued warmly for its Spirituality, but the Naturalists as strongly oppose them. The famous *Boyle* brings it in as an Example to prove the vast Subtility of Matter, since a *Fart*, which, in the *Hydrostatical* Balance does not weigh the Thousandth part of a Grain, shall, in one Minute, expand it self so far, as to occupy the whole Atmosphere of a large Drawing-Room.

The *Chymists* endeavour'd to enquire into its Nature, by resolving it into its first Principles, but they ever found it as Volatile, and as hard to fix as *Mercury*; they all allow'd it to abound much in a volatile Sulphur, which they infer, from the brisk Sensation, wherewith it affects the Organs of Smelling, and from its burning *Blue*, as has been found by Experiment,

Cartesius begs it as a Principle for his Philosophy, and to make it relish the better, new Christen'd it by the Name of his *Materia Subtilis*, and
cook-

6 *The Benefit of FARTING*

cooking up his new System to the *French Taste*, he concluded so savoury an Ingredient would please their *Pa-late*; but it prov'd as unlucky a *Ma-terial*, as the *Salt-peter* in the *Fryar's Composition*, that first discover'd *Gun-powder*, for taking *Vent*, it *Blew up* his whole System, and *Exploded* all his *Philosophy*.

The *Mathematicians* steer'd a mid-dle Course between the *Naturalists* and *Metaphysicians*; they own'd a *Fart* to be a Quantity, yet indivisible, and gave it the Name of a *Mathe-matical Point*, as having neither *Length*, *Breadth* nor *Thicknes*s.

I therefore define a *Fart*, to be, *A Nitro-Aerial Vapour*, exhal'd from an adjacent Pond of Stagnant Water of a *Saline Nature*, and rarify'd and sublim'd into the Nose of a *Microcos-mical Alembic*, by the gentle heat of a **STERCORARIOUS** *Balneum*, with a strong *Empyreuma*, and forc'd thro' the *Posteriors* by the *Com-pressive*

pressive Power of the expulsive Faculty.

Secondly, Having explain'd the Nature and Essence of a *Fart*. I shall next enquire into the ill Consequences of suppressing it, which are almost obvious to every one's Experience, for in its Retrogradation it causes *Cholick*, *Hystericks*, *Rumblings*, *Belching*, *Spleen*, &c. but in Women of a more firm, strong Constitution, it vents it self intirely in a Talkativeness; hence we have a Reason why Women are more Talkative than Men; for as a certain Poet observes,

*Words, own Wind, to be their Mother,
Which stopt at one End, burst out at t'other.*

Hence comes the usual Saying, *tell a Tale, or let a Fart*; implying the necessity of vent one way or other.

The remarkable Taciturnity of the late Widow *Fartick*, is a convincing Proof of this Doctrine, for having

8 *The Benefit of FARTING*

ving her Posteriors much Dilated, and Relaxed by a too frequent Use of Clysters in her younger Days, was so Debilitated in her retentive Faculty, that her Wind passing too freely that way, there wanted a sufficient Supply to set the Wind-Mill of her Tongue a going.

The frequent Fits of Laughing and Crying, without any sensible Cause, (Symptoms common to such as are troubled with the Vapours) are plainly accountable from this Suppression, for the Windy Vapour getting into the Muscles that assist in Laughing, inflates them, and occasions their Laughing; but if this Vapour, when rais'd to the Head, is there condens'd by a cold melancholly Constitution, it distills through the Eyes in the Form of Tears.

Thirdly, As for the Lawfulness of *Farting*, none, I hope, will dispute that Point with me, till they show
me

me a Law against it, which I am satisfied they can't do, and where there's no Law there can be no Transgression. The *Cannon-Law* (if I mistake not) is loudly for it, and the Law of Nature seems to be of our side; and though it seems to be against the Civil-Law, yet the Severity of that Law was provided against by King *James* the First, for a Gentleman dying by suppressing a *Fart* in his Presence, the King had immediately, wrote over the Gate in Capital Letters, this Inscription,

HERE ALL FARTS ARE
FREE.

And *Camden* observes the Ancient esteem *Farts* were in, by Lands held by one *Baldwin le Pettour*, (*i.e.* the *Farter*) at *Hemingston* in *Suffolk* by the Tenure of coming into Court on a certain Day, performing *Saltus, Sufflatus et Bumbulus* (*i.e.*) Capering, Puffing, and Farting. *Camd.* p. 464.
Its

10 *The Benefit of FARTING*

Its being contrary to custom is no Plea, since the same Authority which introduc'd HOOP-PETTICOATS, can also bring *Farting* in Fashion, and there wants nothing more to make it pass currant, than some celebrated Toast of the Town to begin an example. We are very Forward in imitating our Neighbouring Nations in their Fashion and Dress, tho' never so Ridiculous, but Backward in this point, which wou'd be much more for our advantage, for a *Fart* is a Freeman in all the Towns Corporate thro' *Holland*. *Tusfrow Blowza Van Funck*, a Burgo-Master's Wife of *Rotterdam*, values her self as much for the good Report of her *Bum-Battery*, as one of our Ladies shou'd for a sweet Voice, or an agreeable Lisp, and is as industrious in shewing her performance that way, as the other in shewing a white Hand, a rich Ring, or a neat Snuff-Box. And the Ladies in *France* maintain that a promiscuous Conversation,

sation, on a Bog *House, Savours as little of Impudence or Impiety, as over a Tea-Table.

Having proved the lawfulness of *Farting*, and the ill consequence of suppressing it, I shall proceed, *Fourthly* to set down the Advantages the Ladies are likely to reap by an unlimited freedom that way, *First* it delivers them from that long-winded Catalogue of Distempers already mentioned, and prov'd to proceed from this Cause, which benefit alone were sufficient to recommend it to all those who value their Health, but besides this, 'twill render *Pease-porridge* as wholesome as *Ginger-bread*, and bottled *Cyder* as innocent as *Ratafia*, 'twill also lower the Price of *Daffy's* Elixir, and save them a vast Yearly expence, in *Assa-fatida*, and Spirits of *Harts-Horn*, to guard them from the Vapours, since hereby, they become their own *Apothecaries*, to prepare

* The *French-Custom* is, for Ladies, and Gentlemen, to go to the *Privy* together.

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pare a Medicine, will twitch them by the Nose every whit as well as they. 'Tis also a great promoter of Mirth, for I've known one single *Fart*, that made an Escape, raise a Laugh of half an Hour, and the Celebrated Author of a Book called *Laugh, and be Fat*, proves Laughing, to be a very wholesome exercise. Dr. *Blow* in his Treatise of the Fundiment-alls of Musick asserts, that the first discovery of Harmony was owing to an Observation of Persons of different Sizes, sounding different Notes, in Musick, by *Farting*, for while one *Farted* in *B fa bimi*, another was observ'd to answer in *F faut*, and make that agreeable Concord call'd a *Fifth*, whence that Musical Part had its Name of *Bum-Fiddle*, and the first invention of the Double Curtel was owing to this Observation, by this Rule it wou'd be an easy matter to Form a *Farting* Consort, by ranging Persons of different Sizes in order, as you wou'd a Ring
of

of Bells, or a set of Organ Pipes, which Entertainment wou'd prove much more Diverting round a Tea Table, than the usual one, Scandal; since the sweetest Harmony is allow'd by most, to proceed from GUTS. Then, that Lady wou'd be reckon'd the most agreeable in Company, who was readiest at *Reportee*; and to have a good *Report* behind her *Back*, wou'd be allow'd a *strong Argument* of her Merit.

Having thus explain'd the many benefits that will attend a free Practice of *Farting*, I think I need use no other Arguments to recommend it to the Ladies, since their own Ease, Interest and Diversion, plead in it's Favour. I shall therefore *Wind up my Bottom*, and conclude.

We've often heard, how the imprison'd
(Wind,
When in the Bowels of the Earth Confin'd
And

14 The Benefit of FARTING

And wanting vent, whate'er resists, it
(tears,

And overturns, what th' Earth above it
(bears,

Whole Towns, and People, in the wide
(rupture, fall,

Tho' one small vent at first, had sav'd
(them all.

So, in the Microcosm of Man, we find,
The like ill fate, attends a Fart confin'd,

For Cholick, Vapours, Spleen, and Me-
(lancholly,

Do wreck those, who suppress it, for
(their folly.

Hence learn, what great effects, small
(things produce!

The Capitol was sav'd from taking by
(a Goose.

Then, don't admire, that one small whif-
(fling Fart,

Can guard from Spleen, the Citadel
(your Heart.

And

Explain'd.

15

*And, tho' a Goose, let me in time per-
(swade you,
To mind the Foes, that do Behind in-
(vade you;
That being, of such Appriz'd, you may
(prepare,
With speed, to plant your ROARING
(CANNONS there.*

FINIS.



And, the a book, for me in time per-
 (I think you)
 To send the book, that is to be in-
 (I think you)
 That being of such spirit, & you may
 (I think you)
 With speed, to plant your ROMING
 (I think you)

T I L S
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